

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Chairman's Report for 2009

2009 was another successful year for the Society with further increase in membership which now stands at 242.

Committee: Sadly Richard Cave, our Hon. Treasurer since 2006, has had to step down due to other commitments. We greatly value his experience and advice on planning as well as financial matters and hope to be able to continue to call on his expertise when necessary. Thank you so much Richard.

Clemency Doxey was co-opted onto the committee in December and is included in the Committee nominations. We are also delighted that Jennie Jenkins has agreed to being nominated for the post of Hon. Treasurer.

Open gardens was very successful with a record surplus and thanks are due to all involved. This is our main fundraiser for the year so it is lovely to have such excellent support from the village and far beyond.

Our **Open Meetings** were also well attended with speakers on such varied topics as The Suffolk Preservation Society, Wildlife on the River Stour, Repairs to Timber Framed Buildings and The Private Life of Bees (with the Hortsoc).

Planning as usual took up a lot of the Committee's time.

We are continuing to monitor hgv movements in the village by reporting any lorries which cause an obstruction. Forms from Suffolk Highways are available for members of the public to report hgv incidents.

We support and encourage appropriate alterations to listed buildings provided suitable breathable materials are used, such as lime mortar and lime based paints which allow the structure to breathe and reduce the risk of moisture being trapped with resulting damp problems.

To this end we have recently completed a revised version of our leaflet *Living in a Conservation Area*, which will be given to new owners of any listed building in the parish. Some copies are available for members to take away at the AGM.

Other important planning issues include the overdevelopment of houses on small sites and of course, the latest plans for the **The White Hart Inn** which are being considered by Babergh planners. The committee welcome the proposal to re-open the White Hart as a small pub with bar food.

Nat Grid Pylons: After visits to local exhibitions, the society's response was that the proposed new routes are unacceptable and undergrounding through the Dedham Vale AONB section was the only acceptable option in order to preserve the integrity of the local nationally protected countryside.

The Meadow continues to give pleasure to many walkers and the wildflower belt made another really spectacular show along the river last summer. Our regime of cutting and removing the dead material seems to be working. Some clearing of the silt at the junction of the river and the Mill lade is due to take place in early March. The spoil will go on the dip in the meadow and should soon dry out and blend into the meadow. We are grateful to the Environment Agency for undertaking this major project to improve the river flow in Nayland.

Our **Nayland Timber Framed book project** has been further delayed due to the serious illness of Leigh Alston's wife.

We continue to monitor the situation with regard to the latest **Horkesley Park** proposals which were registered with Colchester Borough Council on February 18th 2009 and are expected to be considered by the Council shortly.

So we have had another busy and varied year working on your behalf and of course we are always happy to help members with any issues or concerns they may have and I would at this point like to thank all the members of the Committee for their unstinting hard work during the past year. With monthly meetings and a lot going on in between, there is never a dull moment.

However, the one mantra I will leave you with is: if you wish to make any alterations to the outside or indeed inside of your listed buildings, please contact the Babergh District Council Conservation Officer to check if the work needs Listed Building consent. It could save you a lot of time and money.

John Alexander
Chairman
February 2010